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# University of Northern Iowa Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes, September 24, 1990

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## **FACULTY SENATE**

**September 24, 1990**

**1428**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Comments from Provost Marlin.
2. Comments from Chair Longnecker.
3. Appointment of members to the International Studies Committee. See Appendix A.
4. Received correspondence from Dr. Paula Gilroy, Coordinator of Handicapped Student Services. See Appendix B.
5. Discussion on Senate involvement with the creation of a faculty evaluation instrument.

### **REPORTS**

6. The Senate received the report of Professor Myra Boots on her attendance at the Third Annual National Conference on Racial and Ethnic Relations.
7. The Senate held a general discussion on the issue of admission standards.

The Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:30 p.m., in the Board Room of Gilchrist Hall, by Chairperson Longnecker.

**Present:** Lynne Beykirch, Phyllis Conklin, David Crownfield, Robert Decker, Reginald Green, John Longnecker, Barbara Lounsberry, Ken McCormick, Charles Quirk, Ernest Raiklin, Patrick Wilkinson, Marc Yoder, ex-officio

**Alternates:** Augusta Schurrer/David Duncan, Mary Bozik/Bill Henderson, Marvin Heller/Roger Kueter, Benjamin Crew/Ron Roberts, Dean Primrose/Nick Teig

**Absent:** Leander Brown



## Announcements

1. Provost Marlin stated the University is extremely pleased with the budget recommendations approved by the Board of Regents.

She extended her congratulations to Professors O'Connor and Somervill for the extraordinary job and presentation they made to the Board of Regents on our Russian student exchange program.

She mentioned the Legislative Visitation Committee will be on campus September 25 and 26 to review our strategic plan and its budgetary implications.

Provost Marlin expressed her pleasure with the activities of the participants in the General Education Committee dialogue which allowed individuals to share their ideas and thoughts, and the results of the work with the General Education Program. She stated this is an opportunity to talk about teaching and that she would like to make this forum an annual event.

Senator Lounsberry inquired about the dollars recommended for enrollment growth. Provost Marlin stated the Board has approved a \$2.1 million increase in funding for enrollment growth. This is in addition to \$550,000 recommended for strengthening the undergraduate education program at UNI. These recommendations now go to the Governor and on to the Legislature. She stated the enrollment growth money would be used primarily for the creation of faculty lines while the money for strengthening undergraduate education will be used toward the Center for Teaching and laboratory equipment.

Senator Crownfield stated he was troubled by the article which had appeared in the Des Moines Register concerning the potential politicalization of the University and specific political leaders.

Provost Marlin stated the University is regarded well by the Board of Regents and that University activities are kept as apolitical as possible.

2. Comments from Chairperson Longnecker.

The Chair announced that Professor Roger Kueter will serve as the Senate's liaison to the General Education Committee.

The Chair, commenting on the presentation to the Board of Regents on our Russian student program, stated the presentation was extremely effective and highlighted some of the best qualities of the University to the receptive members of the Board. He stated this was one of the proudest moments he has had as a representative of the University.



3. The Chair presented the slate of nominees for the International Studies Committee. See Appendix A.

Quirk moved, Schurrer seconded, to appoint these individuals. Motion passed.

4. The Chair distributed a correspondence he had received from Dr. Paula Gilroy on accessibility questions for handicapped students during the summer session. See Appendix B.

5. The Chair indicated he has received a response from United Faculty which precludes Senate involvement in the creation of a faculty evaluation instrument.

Senator Crownfield stated he feels the Senate could add to the process and hoped that a problem-solving mode existed somewhere.

Professor James Skaine pointed out there is a provision in the Master Contract for the assessment of faculty. He stated an instrument has been created in 1986 but is not in its final form. He stated the new instrument is an improvement over the current instrument. Senator Crownfield said he was concerned with the issue of scholarly appropriateness and academic utility as it relates to the new instrument. He questioned whether the new instrument would meet the criterion of scholarly intent.

Professor Skaine stated the proposed instrument has been subject to testing and has been found to be reliable. He also stated the United Faculty is always seeking additional input and always approaches issues from a problem-solving intent.

The Chair observed it appeared that the reliability of the instrument was not questioned, but rather its validity. Senator Crownfield stated that the new instrument does not meet his concerns.

## Reports

6. A report from Professor Myra Boots on her attendance at the Third Annual National Conference on Racial and Ethnic Relations.

Professor Boots stated her first involvement with this Conference came when she was Chair of the Faculty Senate and a member of the Affirmative Action Committee. She highlighted some of the pervasive themes that had occurred during these conferences.

1. There must be an awareness of the difficulties occurring on campus relative to racial, religious, and homophobic incidents.

2. The campus security unit must be prepared ahead of time to address such issues.



3. There must be a statement from University administration on how incidents will be handled should they occur.

4. It is necessary to cope with individuals who refuse to admit that slurs and other activities occur in their classrooms.

5. We must be aware of the cultural diversity among different groups. The different groups have different agendas, mores and problems that are unique to each group.

She stressed it is imperative we continue to try to meet the needs of individuals once they are on campus, our activities cannot stop simply with recruitment.

She reported the keynote speaker at this last conference was Dr. C. T. Vivian who stressed the concern that there are an insufficient number of young people involved in higher education. This fact allows for these individuals to be involved in non-productive or destructive activities.

She relayed the sentiments of another keynote speaker, Dr. Harold Hodgkinson, who asked the question, what will be the response of the white race when they are in the minority role. He questioned as to who will be the leaders of the future and stressed the importance of the role to be played through higher education.

She identified other key points brought forth at the Conference.

1. That administrators must be behind change in the areas of instruction, evaluation and promotion.

2. That faculty continue to be blind to diversity in the classrooms. That faculty still teach as if all of their students are white and fail to teach to diversity that exists.

3. It is important to have people in roles of acclimating newly hired protected class individuals to the community. Our activities cannot cease at recruitment.

4. Mentoring programs involving freshmen students and upper division students have been highly successful in the retention and achievement of protected class students.

5. That courses dealing with Blacks, Indians, Hispanics, non-Western cultures and Western civilization should be taught as separate courses since faculty are inadequately prepared to teach these topics in a combined course.

6. That courses in General Education belong to the University and not to the instructors or to the departments where they are taught. It is imperative the entire University community decide what is to be taught, what is to be stressed, and how students and faculty are to be evaluated on the results.



Professor Boots thanked the Senate for allowing her to attend and offered to continue her activities in this area.

The Senate expressed its appreciation to Professor Boots for her report.

7. A discussion on the issue of admission standards.

Senator Green expressed his belief that after the last meeting, what the Senate needed was more information to supplant certain assumptions.

In reviewing the admission pamphlet, it was pointed out that we operate with course requirements and class rank, and ACT achievement. He stated that of the entering class of 1990, only 3.2 percent of those students admitted and attending do not meet our course unit requirements. He cited the comparable figure for the entering class of 1980 would have been 50 percent. He cited that 84 percent of our current year students exceed our minimum science course requirement.

He indicated it is important to note that our requirements apply to all curricular areas and are easily interpretable by students and parents. He also pointed out high school personnel find our requirements to be easily interpretable and allow for flexibility.

Senator Crownfield questioned if all three institutions should have the same requirements. He mentioned he has long supported a stronger foreign language requirement at UNI.

Senator Crew inquired if our foreign language exit requirement is not accomplishing the same thing and provides the flexibility to meet student needs and backgrounds. He questioned as to whether our goal is for students coming to the University, or exiting with proficiency.

Director of Admissions Jack Wielenga stated our exit requirement in foreign languages appears to be doing what we desired. In 1988 our incoming freshmen had completed two years of foreign language at a rate of 59 percent. This figure for 1990 is 84 percent.

Professor Myra Boots, a member of the Educational Relations Committee, stated this Committee has been charged by the Board of Regents to determine the impact of admission requirements. She stated a full understanding and assessment will probably take a couple of years since the University of Iowa and Iowa State University are operating under their standards for the first year. She pointed out high school counselors do not want changes in the standards, to allow the high schools to adjust their curricula and educate their students on the necessary course requirements.

Senator Primrose stated he is concerned the universities are setting the curriculum for the high schools. He questioned if we are allowing for the preparation in high schools for life skills.



Senator Bozik reminded the Senate of previous discussions as to the impact of course requirements on other academic areas such as music, art, home economics, theatre, and industrial arts.

Senator Crownfield stated he was afraid that students may be coming to us as transfer students because that route may be easier to satisfy than coming to us as freshmen.

Director Wielenga pointed out it is important when you talk about persistence to keep in mind the fact if whether the student was served to the extent desired. This implies the student may not have intended to graduate from UNI and/or left after having been successful.

Senator Green questioned the Senate's motivation, asking if we are dissatisfied with the preparation of our students.

Senator Schurrer pointed out the College of Natural Sciences will obviously say that additional science work is desirable. She suggested this issue may benefit by review of a broader body.

Professor Boots suggested we may wish to look at reconstituting the original committee that designed these admission requirements.

Senator Crownfield stated he had three basic questions: 1) Is the Modern Languages Department satisfied with our present requirement; 2) Is there a reason why we should not require three years of science; and 3) Does the College of Natural Sciences believe two years is an acceptable requirement. He suggested these issues need review from an all-University perspective. He questioned, however, as to how this may be accomplished.

Lounsberry moved, Schurrer seconded, for the Chair of the Faculty Senate to contact the former select committee to reactivate this committee and to have them update their report for presentation to the Faculty Senate yet this year.

Senator Crownfield indicated he was not persuaded this was the best way to proceed.

Senator Crew asked Senator Crownfield as to what was his alternative? Senator Crownfield suggested that through the distribution of the minutes, we see what response we may receive from the faculty.

Senator Bozik pointed out that since these requirements have been in effect since only 1988, that it is perhaps wise to let high schools adjust to this situation and for us to hold our assessment in abeyance.

Registrar Leahy indicated that our requirements allow some flexibility on the part of students and high schools, and give them an opportunity to plan their program of study.

Senator Crew stated that being a premiere institution has more to do with what we do with students after they come to us, than how they come to us. He suggested

institutions are known for the individuals they graduate, not the individuals they admit.

Question on the motion was called. The motion was defeated.

Crownfield moved, McCormick seconded, to adjourn. Motion passed.

The Senate adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip L. Patton  
Secretary

These minutes shall stand approved as published unless corrections or protests are filed with the Secretary of the Senate within two weeks of this date, September 28, 1990.



## NOMINATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES COMMITTEE

CHFA - Alice Swensen  
Shivesh Thakur

College of Education - Michael Waggoner  
Greg Stefanich

College of Business - Geof Mills

College of Natural Science - Michael Millar

College of Soc/Behavioral Science - Dhirendra Vajpeyi

Modern Languages - European - Fritz Konig

Latin American - Nile Vernon

Area Studies - Raul Munoz

Pending (2nd position)

TOSOL - Cheryl Roberts

Ex-Officio: - Robert Leestamper  
John Somervill  
Germana Nijim  
Katherine Martin  
Virginia Hash

9/24/90





TO: John Longnecker, Chair, Faculty Senate

FROM: Paula Gilroy<sup>pg</sup>, Psychologist, Coordinator of Handicapped Student Services

DATE: September 21, 1990

RE: Faculty Senate Minutes of 9/10/90

I read with concern the comment regarding campus accessibility for disabled students during summer session. It is true that Noehren Hall is not open during the summer. The university however makes every effort to accommodate any disabled student who chooses to attend summer school. The guest rooms of Dancer, Bender and Bartlett are available and the university will make whatever accommodations (ramps in bathrooms, room hardware modifications, the addition of air conditioners, etc.) are necessary to meet the need of each individual student.

I agree that the arrangement is perhaps not as ideal as Noehren Hall, but the accommodations are adequate.

PJG/bp